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Dear Friends,

People in our churches tell me, often in private, that they don't know how to pray. They listen to prayers in church or read them in books and feel that they cannot match the required standard.

That's not how God sees it. Remember the story in Luke 18:9-14 about the Pharisee and the Tax Collector? The story is about humility and awareness that all of us are incomplete. The lofty words of the Pharisee, the religious professional, are contrasted with the simple, honest, raw words of the Tax Collector and it is the tax collector that wins Jesus' affirmation.

When we pray, we pray in the "name" of Jesus. To pray in the "name" of Jesus is to pray through him and in his character. That means that we can stumble through our prayers, rephrase, and start again. Through Jesus, we like Moses, may dare to speak to God "as one speaks to a friend" (Exodus 33:11). I believe that when we pray, we can be confident that God, the creator of the universe, is hanging on our every word!

Thy Kingdom Come (<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>) is an ecumenical initiative to focus all of God's people on prayer and takes place over the eleven days between Ascension Day (30th May) and Pentecost (9th June). All over the country there will be opportunities for us as individuals and communities to share in prayer.

Some of you reading this will feel that through ill health or infirmity you are not able to contribute much to the life of our church. Nothing could be further from the truth. There is work for you to do. Please would you pray for our fellowship, the other churches and the life of Norley and its surrounding towns and villages?

In turn, may we pray for you? If you have a prayer request, please contact your pastoral visitor or myself with your request and your guidance as to what level of detail you would like us to share in public worship.

Grace and peace,

Andrew

Pastoral Piece

Greetings Everyone

As I write this piece it is a beautiful sunny May morning.

Time has just flown by again, already the middle of the fifth month.

I'm not complaining – it's been so wonderful seeing nature's gown of spring and beautiful flowers. The lighter evenings make you feel great!

I hope that as we look forward to 'Summer' it's a good one for you and yours. Our team are always ready to help if needed.

The only real satisfaction there is, is to be growing up inwardly all the time, becoming more just, true, generous, simple, manly, womanly, kind, active.

And this we can all do, by doing each day the day's work as well as we can.

(James Freeman Clarke)

May you be blessed in God's heaven.

Margaret Hogan 14/5/19

Craft Club News

In the Spring copy of Outreach our news referred to the chicks we were knitting to cover Easter eggs for St Luke's Hospice. We received a lovely card from their fundraiser thanking us for the 'truly amazing' 283 chicks!

Our next project is a craft stall at the Norley Flower Show in September. Some beautiful items have already been made, so please don't miss it! Before then we probably will have an outing or two, details to be arranged.

In spite of all this activity, relaxation over tea or coffee and plenty of chat is quite in order on Tuesday mornings.

Alison Twinn

Christ our Lord. We look forward to keeping in touch with both boys through their family over the coming years.

March 13th Church Council

The first Church Council meeting for 2019 was chaired by our Minister, Andrew. It was a full agenda and there are updates on financial matters and property matters included elsewhere in this magazine. Key additional items discussed at the meeting were:

- That the Christmas celebrations – both the singing evening and the carol service had been successful, and it was good to see friends from the local community and families of our regular attenders at both events. Andrew is hoping that we can be involved with St John's and the school in some 'joined up' Christmas outreach this year.
- A couple of notable dates from the Spiritual Committee report were the 'Welcome Service' for new Circuit staff and to mark the merger of the our Circuit with the Runcorn Circuit on 31st August, to become North Cheshire Circuiy. This service will be held at the Heath, Runcorn and will be led by the new District Chair, Rev Helen Kirk. Helen's own welcome service will take place on 30th August at Tunstall. Harvest Festival will take place on 29th September with Andrew covering the morning service. Further details will be included in the notices nearer to the time.
- We have been very pleased to welcome friends from Acton Bridge Methodist Church into our fellowship at Norley.
- It was agreed that instead of the Safari Supper this year we will hold two alternative fundraising events: a fundraising Church Open Day on Saturday June 15th and a musical evening in the autumn (date to be confirmed).
- Fundraising: We have supported the appeal for funds to purchase three defibrillators to be located across Norley and we also noted that Michael Gough has taken over as the co-ordinator for the Christian Aid appeal across the village.

The next Church Council meeting will be held on Wednesday June 12th and an additional evening meeting will be held in July to discuss our outreach activities – further details about both will be included in the weekly notices.

Lesley Gough, Acting Secretary to the Church Council

Good Friday

Andrew led a very moving and inspiring service portraying the last days of Jesus' life to a well-attended service. We all were helped to think differently about a story we thought we knew so well.

The Choir at Norley

The choir contributed to both Easter services.

In the morning they sang a song entitled **The fruit of the Spirit by Brian Casebow** based on the reading from Galatians. Alison Twinn first read the words with a background of quiet music. Yvonne sang the second verse beautifully, with good diction. She has always had a beautiful voice, but this is the first time that she had the confidence to sing a solo. Well done, Yvonne!

For the evening service, the choir sang a song entitled

God sent his son. by Gloria & William Gaither

Louis & Oliver sang the second verse with such powerful voices. We are delighted to see how wonderfully they have developed both in their faith and their singing. We are fortunate to have Eileen join our choir. Jean & Eileen sang the descant for the third verse.

Above all, we are delighted and thankful that Ruth is back singing with us. We are inspired by her wonderful contribution to **Norley@9**.

Music does bring **Harmony**, not **Discord**.

Saro Jesudason

Solar Panels Update

After the inverter hiccup the panels are performing well, and we have just received a cheque for £431 for generation from 6 Jan to 9 April, bringing our receipts to almost £11,600 in 7 years of operation for our outlay of £7540.

Easter Day The church was wonderfully decorated in preparation for the resurrection, and Claire Heald led the morning service during which the bare cross was decorated with yellow chrysanthemums by the congregation to celebrate the resurrection. Claire celebrated Holy Communion to conclude the service.

Andrew led the joyful celebratory evening service, after which the decorated cross was carried out into the church drive as a statement to those passing during the following week.



Church Anniversary

This year the 137th anniversary of the current building was celebrated with a father and son duo. We were delighted to be led by Andrew's father David Emison in the morning in a thoughtful and thought provoking service – you could see where the son gets it from. This was followed in the evening by Andrew leading a meaningful service of holy communion to round off the day.

Annual Church Meeting

Our Annual Church Meeting was held on 12th May was Chaired by our Minister, Andrew and attended by 24 of our members.

At the meeting we re-elected the current team of Stewards, Vestry Assistants and Representatives to the Church Council and so they will all continue in office. Lewis Dimelow was also elected as a Steward (with effect from September).

In our discussion about our Christian ministry and witness in the village we reflected on our outreach into the School, following Andrea Ellams' departure. Andrew is establishing good links with the school, and it was agreed that we should spend some time considering our outreach into the village and in the meantime any suggestions and ideas could be forwarded to any of the Stewards or Church Council members.

Those attending agreed that this year, our external charity donations would be to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, the Cheshire Agricultural Chaplaincy, Marie Curie and Norley News.

Following the meeting our fellowship continued with lunch and Holy Communion. The contribution of everyone to the meeting and the fellowship that followed – particularly those involved in the preparation, serving and clearing up for the lunch is greatly appreciated.

Lesley Gough Acting Secretary to the Church Council.

1st Wednesday Walks

The March walk was led by Heather and Anthony, The weather forecast was grim prior to our scheduled walk, but 9 intrepid walkers decided on it being fine, as usual. We started from a secluded car park on Kingsmead opposite a boatyard where several ancient boats were awaiting restoration or something less favourable. We joined the River Weaver & proceeded northwards towards & crossing the river at Hunts Lock & then heading South into the Marshall's Arm Nature Reserve. The route took us past The Mousey & Twig Islands which were created when the river was canalised in the 1700's. This redundant section of the river became a holiday & bathing area in the 1950's. Times & destinations have certainly changed since then. The next land mark was "The Blue Bridge," on the Northwich bypass, which then led us into Vale Royal Woods, under a sandstone railway viaduct & to cross the river again at Vale Royal Locks. Now we headed back north along, a well-made path, back to our cars. Along the walk we saw the first signs of spring in the wild flowers peeping through. We concluded with lunch at The Kingfisher, where we were joined by 4 non walkers which was good.

Anthony Davies

The April Wednesday Walk, led by Peter and Sheila, was a 3.6 mile stroll along the footpaths around Foxwist Green. We started from the Plough Inn at Whitegate, going north along Beauty Bank, before cutting across on footpaths and tracks to Clay Lane. We then

took further footpaths down to the end of Foxwist Green Lane, en route passing through a field of llamas, before descending to Sixes Pool. We then followed a pleasant path beside Boggart Brook, and the lane up to Gale Green Farm. At this stage four of the party, led by Sheila, shortened the walk by cutting south to the Whitegate Way, while the rest of us followed rights of way, (sometimes without a noticeable path on the ground) over to Brook House and down to the Whitegate Way. After about a mile, having crossed over Dalefords Lane, we left the Way, following a footpath back to the bottom end of Beauty Bank, where we caught up with the break-away group before returning to the pub for Lunch.

Peter Hills

On Wednesday 1st May the weather forecast was not promising, but our normal good luck held, and although mostly cloudy the rain kept away until later in the day.

The walk, which had been planned by Janet, started at the Red Lion in Little Budworth, and after taking the road down the hill to Budworth Pool we followed footpaths and bridleways through pleasant fields, woodlands and beside streams, enjoying the spring countryside. The walk finished along Vicarage Lane and back to the Red Lion for a good lunch

Alison Twinn

Future walks are planned for **Wednesday June 5**, **Wednesday July 3rd** and **Wednesday August 7th**. Meet at church at 9.45 for a 10.00 am departure each month – we hope to see you there.

Diary

Unless stated in the notices the following group meets weekly
 Craft Club Tuesdays 10.00am – noon in the Open Door Room
 (All activities at Norley Methodist unless otherwise stated)

June 2019

Sunday	2 nd	10.45am	Rev Andrew Emison - Sacrament
		4.30pm	Alsager - District Leaving Service for Peter Barber
		6.30pm	No Service at Norley
Wednesday	5 th	9.45am	1 st Wednesday Walk
MHA Sunday	9 th	10.45am	Rev Neil Stacey of Chester
(Pentecost)		6.30pm	No service at Norley
Sunday 9 th – Sunday 16 th			Octave of prayer for Christian Unity
Monday	10 th	12 noon	Hurst Soup Lunch for 'Sight Savers'

Wednesday	12 th	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
		7.00pm	Church Council meeting
Saturday	15 th	10.00am	until 12.00 noon Church Open Day (see article)
		2.00pm	until 4.00pm Church Open Day (see article)
Sunday	16 th	9.00am	Norley@9
		10.45am	Mrs Avis Palmer of Kelsall
		6.30pm	Rev Andrew Emison - Sacrament
Wednesday	19 th	10.30am	Spiritual Committee at Howell Croft
		7.30pm	Café Church led by Michael Gough
Thursday	20 th	7.30pm	Circuit Meeting at Frodsham
Sunday	23 rd	10.45am	Mrs Elizabeth Holmes of Frodsham
		6.30pm	No service at Norley
Thursday	27 th	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
		1.15pm	Thursday Club
Conference	30 th	10.45am	Rev David Copley of Frodsham - Sacrament
Sunday		6.30pm	No Service at Norley
			Ordination of Revd David Bintliff at Conference

July 2019

Wednesday	3 rd	9.45am	1st Wednesday Walk
Thursday	4 th	7.30pm	Local Preachers' Meeting at The Heath, Runcorn
Sunday	7 th	10.45am	Mr Mike Ridley of Bunbury
		6.30pm	Rev Andrew Emison - Sacrament
Monday	8 th	12 noon	Hurst Soup Lunch for 'Action for Children'
Tuesday	9 th	7.30pm	Church Outreach Strategy Meeting – all welcome

July 2019 (continued)

Wednesday	10 th	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
Saturday	13 th		Hilbre Island walk for 'Action for Children'


Sunday	14 th		'Action for Children' Sunday
		10.45am	Mr Alan Carter of Frodsham
		6.30pm	No Service at Norley
Sunday	21 st	10.45am	Rev Claire Heald of Chester - Sacramento
		4.00pm	Farewell Circuit Service at Saltney for David & Anne Speed
Thursday	25 th	12 noon	Open Door Lunch
		1.15pm	Thursday Club
Sunday	28 th	10.45am	Mr Andrew Ellams of Frodsham
		6.30pm	No Service at Norley
August 2019			
Sunday	4 th	10.45am	Dr John Hufton
		6.30pm	Joint service at Blakelees- Miss Heather Rowkand
Wednesday	7 th	9.45am	1st Wednesday Walk
Sunday	11 th	10.45am	Rev Sue Levitt - Baptism
		6.30pm	Rev David Bintliff – Sacramento
Sunday	18 th	10.45am	Mrs Janet Batey of The Hurst
		6.30pm	Joint service at Blakelees – Rev Andrew Emison
Sunday	25 th	10.45am	Mrs Joan Colwell of Northwich
		6.30pm	Joint service at Frodsham – Mr John Bell
Friday	30 th		Tunstall – District Welcome for the new Chair, Rev Helen Kirk

Saturday 31st 4.30pm The Heath, Runcorn –
 Rev Helen Kirk
 New North Cheshire
 Circuit service to
 Welcome Circuit Staff

September 2019

Wednesday 4th 9.45am 1st Wednesday Walk
 Wednesday 11th 12 noon Open Door Lunch
 Sunday 15th 9.00am Norley@9
 Wednesday 18th 7.30pm Café Church
 Thursday 26th 12 noon Open Door Lunch
 1.15pm Thursday Club

You are warmly invited to the
 District leaving service for the District Chairman



Revd. Peter Barber
 on Sunday 2nd June 2019
 at 4:30pm

at Wesley Place, Alsager, ST7 2AF

Spiritual Committee

The upcoming summer quarter is often regarded as a period to review, recover and recharge before September comes around again and a new Methodist year begins. This year, it does include the great feast of Pentecost and, as if to gather up all we believe, that is followed by Trinity Sunday. The Holy Trinity – God as father/mother, Son and Spirit – is the cornerstone of Christian faith, embodied in the creeds. It is said that local preachers sometimes decide it’s a good week for a holiday, to avoid having to face the daunting challenge of expounding its meaning.



Norley Methodist Church
Café Church
 Come and enjoy
 fellowship, worship and refreshments
 in a café atmosphere in the church
 at 7.30pm on the following Wednesdays:
 19th June led by Michael Gough
 18th September tbc

So to Café Church, on June 19th when Michael Gough will introduce a conversation on the creeds (starting at 7.30 pm as usual and lasting an hour or so – all are welcome). We seldom repeat the creed in our worship, and when we do so, do we ever question what we say? After their June dates, both Café Church and Norley@9 will then take a break until September.

We have been fortunate that our preaching plan for



June to August contains no gaps or local arrangements: the evening services of Holy Communion are on June 16th, July 7th and August 11th. On the last of these dates we shall welcome the Revd David Bintliff, the minister at Helsby and Kingsley, who will on June 30th have been received into the Full Connexion of the Methodist Church and ordained into the ministry of the universal Church during the course of the Methodist Conference at Birmingham. Some churches in the circuit are planning to receive, via

internet link, the Sunday morning Conference Service from Birmingham – see the plan for details – in which the ‘Reception into Full Connexion’ happens.

The morning service on August 11th will include the baptism of Clara Turnbull, daughter of Dorothy and Craig and younger sister of Wilfred, conducted, at special request, by the Revd Sue Levitt.

The Spiritual Committee meets on June 19th at Howell Croft, Cow Lane at 10.30 am, courtesy of Ruth and Bruce Lane. This is, as ever, an open meeting with no fixed membership and all are invited. We shall reflect on our patterns of worship and plans for the September to November quarter, taking us to the Sunday before Advent. How time flies!

John Bell

Open Day

You will be most welcome at this Open Day which is also a fund-raising event – a Gift Day – instead of the Safari Supper which we are unable hold this year. All donations will be gratefully received and we invite you to be as generous as possible.

It would be helpful if you could bring donations in an envelope with your name on, or in the inside, and gift-aid will be claimed from weekly envelope givers who have already given their permission. Our minister Andrew will be present to receive the donations. Spare gift-aid declaration forms and envelopes will be available on the day for anyone who needs them. We look forward to welcoming you at some point during the day.

Come and be part of our **Open Day** **June 15th**
10am – noon and 2pm – 4pm
Light refreshments will be served

The Church Weekend Away at Beth Eden (October 4th – 6th)

Thanks for your deposits and bookings.

I am delighted to report that 18 people so far have booked to go on the weekend, including Andrew and his family. We have exclusive use of Beth Eden provided we are 20 or more people, and we have until the end of June to get to that number before we have to advise Beth Eden of our actual numbers.

So if you are still thinking about it and would like to come let me know and I will add you to the list.

Bruce Lane

OPEN DOOR LUNCHES.

As we look forward to the warmer weather we have our dates for the next quarter - please note there will be no lunches during August and we shall resume on September 11th and 26th

Wednesday June 12th.

Thursday June 27th.

Wednesday July 10th.

Thursday July 25th.

Wednesday September 11th Thursday September 26th

All are welcome to join us for lunch on these dates –

the meal will be served at 12 noon and we look forward to seeing you.

Joan Bell



An invitation to you to come to
the
Thursday Club
June 27th
July 25th
September 26th
1.15pm – 2.30pm in the
Open Door Room, Norley Methodist Church

Church Outreach Strategy Meeting

Please come along to the Church on the evening of July 9 to share your views on how the Church should take forward its mission in Norley. Following the end of Andrea's work at the school and the changes at St John's, we need to decide where we focus our activities in the village to fulfil our calling. The Annual Church Meeting and the church leadership team both felt this meeting should be our first step into the future. Do come with your ideas. The meeting will be from 7.30pm until 9pm.

Last year (2018) - Norley village raised an amazing £2,176 which contributed to the overall final total of £8.5m. The money went towards funding Christian Aid's programme of storm-proof house construction in Haiti. Thank you to all the volunteer door-to-door collectors and the generosity of the people of Norley.

The focus this year is on maternity care in Sierra Leone. In Sierra Leone, communities are recovering from the Ebola virus, which claimed the lives of 4,000 people and 10% of the healthcare workforce! The country is having to repay crippling debts to the World Bank and our sisters and brothers in Sierra Leone are suffering from poor healthcare – particularly in the field of maternity care.

The chances for a mother and baby of dying in childbirth are so much higher now as Sierra Leone lacks the funds to provide basic maternity services - proper clinics, health training, ambulances etc. In this day and age, no woman should die in childbirth! So, this year your Christian Aid Week donations will go towards supporting maternity care in Sierra Leone. Not only that, Christian Aid is stepping up the pressure on the World Bank to 'drop the debt' for Sierra Leone - most of which was accrued in coping with the Ebola crisis.

For more information contact the Christian Aid co-ordinator for the village of Norley is Michael Gough (E: michael.gough@mail.com; M: 07748 112214).

Financial Report

The church's financial position is in good order, with no immediate cause for concern. We continue to rely on gift-aid refunds from HMRC at the level of just over £5000 per year within a total income of £26,000. The main unknown is the increase in the circuit assessment – the amount we pay each quarter to the circuit to cover the costs of ministry and oversight – as the circuit is reviewing the basis of assessment for 2019-20. One of the main determinants is church membership and Norley has sustained this more successfully than many other churches: we must therefore pay our realistic share. Assessment accounts for about 70% of expenditure.

In the current year, 2018-19, we have fulfilled our commitment to the community by funding the cabinet in which the defibrillator will be installed at the Village Hall at a cost of £314. As a result of the period of undetected failure of the solar panel inverter, we shall receive a lower refund this year than we did in 2017-18. The Church Council decided that, as the Safari Supper was not a practical proposition this year, we would hold a Gift Day on June 15th at which donations for church funds would be most gratefully received.

As is our custom, the Annual Church Meeting agreed donations to external charities and organisations – Norley News £100, the Marie Curie Foundation £200, the Poppy Appeal (Royal British Legion) £100 and the Cheshire Agricultural Chaplaincy £200.

Over the past 10 years, the Annual Church Meeting has made donations averaging £600 per year to 23 different charities and organisations, of which only 6 have received more than one: the main beneficiaries have been Northwich Samaritans £650, the Alzheimers Society £500, Norley News £400, Sanctus (the Stoke based refugee charity) £400, the Marie Curie Foundation £350, the British Legion Poppy Appeal £300 and All We Can (formerly the Methodist Relief and Development Fund) £300.

A balanced budget for 2019-20 has been prepared. Thanks to the careful stewardship and maintenance of our premises we have no major concerns about property expenditure and we are making financial provision for the external painting which will be required within a couple of years or so.

John Bell, Treasurer

There has been a 22 per cent increase in the number of emergency food parcels given to local people in the last year. West Cheshire Foodbank, which distributes food parcels to individuals and families throughout Chester and Ellesmere Port, has given out 9651 food parcels in the past 12 months

The three day emergency food parcels were distributed to local people between April 2018 – March 2019. And a staggering 3552 of the recipients – more than a third – were children.

The local food bank's figures feed into a larger national picture with a record increase in food bank use across the UK reported this week by the Trussell Trust.

West Cheshire Foodbank is backing calls from the Trussell Trust to ensure the benefits system is able to protect people from poverty.

The figures from West Cheshire Foodbank are a 22% increase on the same period last year. The charity believes a large part of the local increase is due to people struggling with continued issues with benefit payments/issues such as the five-week wait for Universal Credit.

Ian Oulton, Foodbank Trustee said:

No one in the Chester and Ellesmere Port area should need a food bank's help and we want to see an end to local people needing emergency food at all. It doesn't have to be this way – our benefits system is supposed to protect us all from being swept into poverty. Universal Credit should be part of the solution but currently the five week wait is leaving many without enough money to cover the basics.

“Until we reach a future where food banks are no longer needed, we'll continue to provide vital support when it matters most. We're dedicated to ensuring that people in our community without enough money for food are able to access emergency support. Our vital work in the community has only been possible in the last year because of the

incredible generosity shown by our dedicated volunteers and local people and businesses in donating food, time and funds.”

West Cheshire Food Bank is self-funding – relying on donations of foodstuffs and cash to cover the £60k annual running costs. Money has to be raised to fund the rented warehouse space, a van to pick up donated food and deliver to distribution centres, and overheads including utilities and insurance.

The Food Bank is constantly looking for funding support from local businesses, organisations and individuals. More info at www.westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk or by contacting info@westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk.